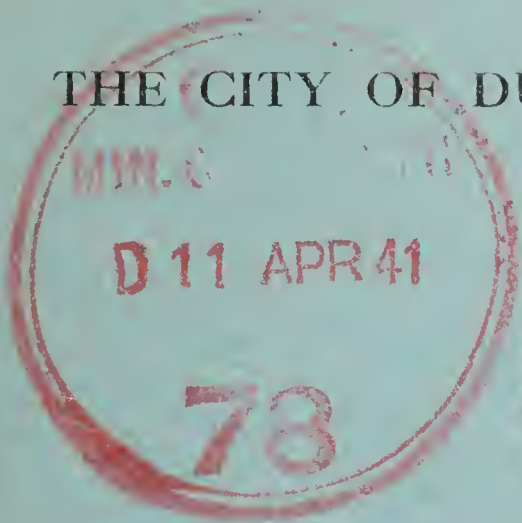


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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND OTHER RECORDS  
FOR 1939.

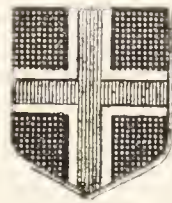
S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.,  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DURHAM  
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1940.

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (PART TIME):

S. KNIBB YOUNG, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., B.Hy.

SANITARY INSPECTOR:

G. W. RAGG, Cert. R.S.I., Cert.San.Insp.Exam.Bd. (London)  
Certs. in Hygiene, etc.

MATRON OF ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

MISS E. SCORER, S.R.N.

CLERK:

W. E. CHAPMAN (Health Department).

Mr. G. A. Gill who qualified as a Sanitary Inspector, resigned his appointment as Clerk in the Health Department, having obtained the appointment of Sanitary Inspector to the Urban District Council of Skelmersdale (Lancashire). Mr. W. E. Chapman was appointed to fill the vacancy and commenced duty on the third of April.

DURHAM,

December, 1940.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit to you my tenth annual report, being that for the year 1939.

With a slight increase in the Birth Rate, a similar fall in the Death Rate, a satisfactorily low Infant Mortality Rate and an extremely low incidence of Infectious Disease there is reason to be well satisfied with the state of health of the City population during the first full year of War. It is pleasing to record a substantial fall in the number of deaths from Cancer from 42 to 25 but I would hesitate to infer from this that progress in methods of prevention and treatment has made a similar degree of progress with an incomplete knowledge of the cause, our main hope at present lies in the way of cure by early recognition and treatment.

The total deaths from Tuberculosis were 17 and new cases notified 21. The enforced hard conditions of living, both as to housing and feeding of the present difficult times, are likely to cause some increase of this disease and to adversely affect those suffering from it.

The Birth Rate is fortunately the highest for the past five years and compares favourably with that for the County considering the type of the City population but it must go much higher if the anticipated wastage is to be fully replaced.

The Infant Mortality Rate whilst increased to 37 is still well below that for the County and England and Wales and speaks well for the standard of condition of health and motherhood maintained in the City.



The incidence of Infectious Disease during the year was particularly low with the result that the local hospital had many vacant beds at all times. This may be a lull before the storm and I would take this opportunity to impress upon parents the importance of having their children immunised against Diphtheria. It would, I think, be wise if the Committee made another effort to persuade parents in this direction.

Progress in housing was naturally more or less at a standstill during the year. With the inevitable movement of population at the present time there comes the dangers of overcrowding and a careful watch must be kept to mitigate these as far as possible.

The year under review saw the completed establishment of something entirely new to the Health Services—I refer to the Casualty Services. In this connection I take an opportunity to record my tribute to the small band of volunteers who have with much personal sacrifice and hardship made it possible to maintain an efficient service, ever ready by day and night to give succour to those who may happen to be the victims of enemy action.

It is hard to particularize but I would especially mention the services rendered by Miss I. Robson and Mr. R. Birch.

Frequent visits to houses of the Council Estates makes me mention over again the opinion that systematic inspection of the properties as to care and maintenance by an appointed officer would repay the Council in no small measure and would be an urge to many tenants to take more interest in their houses.

The activity of the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Children is being fully maintained in the City so that this supervision of the welfare of the young, so unfortunately still often needed, has not suffered by the change of circumstances.

Once again I record my sincere appreciation of the gracious help at all times afforded me by your Sanitary Inspector. Mr.

Ragg has acquired such a detailed knowledge of local circumstances that it is fortunate he is able to continue in his office.

My thanks are due to the Members of the Committee for their confidence and consideration as also to the other officials of the Corporation for their kindness and help.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. KNIBB YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE CITY OF DURHAM CORPORATION.  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
of the  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
for 1939.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres ... 4,029.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population 1938 :—19,370  
1939 :—(a)19,570  
(b)19,560

Number of inhabited houses end of 1938 :—4,786.  
1939 :—4,797.

Rateable value :—(1938), £114,092. (1939,) £118,012.

Sum represented by a 1d. rate :—(1938) £430 0s. 6d.  
(1939) £456 14s. 9½d.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The estimated number of unemployed men in the City at the end of 1938 was 700, being 15% of Insured men employed.

At the end of 1939 the estimated number of unemployed was 550 being 12½% of insured men employed.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

Live Births :—	TOTAL.	M.	F.	
Legitimate .....	286	159	127	Birth-rate (per 1,000 population) <b>15·27.</b>
Illegitimate .....	9	4	5	

Stillbirths :—

Legitimate .....	5	4	1	Rate per 1,000 total births <b>20.</b>
Illegitimate .....	1	1	nil	



DEATHS.

207	103	104	Death-rate per 1,000 population) 10·84.
-----	-----	-----	--

					Rate per 1,000 total	
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.					Deaths. (live & still) births.	
Total ...	...	...	...	...	4	13·3

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :—

All infants, per 1,000 live births .....	37
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate births .....	35
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate births .....	111
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) .....	25
Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....	nil
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age) .....	nil

## DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGE PERIODS.

All Ages.	0—1	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
207	10	1	4	8	10	27	47	100

BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE, AND INFANT MORTALITY  
OVER TEN YEARS.

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Birth Rate	19·8	16·8	15·1	15·0	16·5	14·5	14·0	14·9	14·7	15·3
Death Rate	12·8	13·0	11·9	11·7	11·4	11·7	12·0	12·9	11·7	10·8
Infant Mortality	94	57	71	80	72	56	92	50	28	37

TABLE COMPARING THE BIRTH RATE, DEATH RATE  
AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1939  
OF ENGLAND AND WALES, ETC., WITH THAT FOR DURHAM  
CITY.

	Birth Rate per 1,000 Population		Death Rate per 1000 Popula- tion.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years.	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	15·0	0·59	12·1	4·6	50
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ... ..	14·8	0·59	12·0	6·3	53
148 Smaller Towns, (Esti- mated Resident Popu- lations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931) ... ..	15·6	0·57	11·2	3·0	40
London ... ..	12·3	0·44	11·9	8·2	48
Administrative County of Durham ... ..	16·6	0·74	12·0	3·9	63
Durham City ... ..	15·3	0·31	10·8	0·00	37

## CAUSES OF DEATH IN DURHAM BOROUGH, 1939.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Total.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES.....	207	103	104
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	—	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	—	—	—
Diphtheria .....	2	1	1
Influenza .....	4	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica.....	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	10	7	3
Other Tuberculosis Diseases.....	7	4	3
Syphilis.....	4	1	3
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes Dorsalis....	1	—	1
Cancer—Malignant Disease .....	25	8	17
Diabetes .....	1	1	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.....	12	5	7
Heart Disease.....	51	24	27
Aneurysm .....	1	1	—
Other Circulatory Diseases.....	9	6	3
Bronchitis.....	3	2	1
Pneumonia .....	8	4	4
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	1	1	—
Peptic Ulcers .....	1	1	—
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) .....	—	—	—
Appendicitis .....	1	1	—
Cirrhosis of Liver.....	1	1	—
Other Diseases of Liver, etc. ....	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases.....	4	3	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis.....	7	6	1
Puerperal Sepsis.....	2	—	2
Other Puerperal Causes.....	2	—	2
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, Malformations, etc.....	8	6	2
Senility .....	11	4	7
Suicide .....	2	2	—
Other Violence.....	11	6	5
Other Defined Diseases.....	13	3	10
Causes Ill-defined or Unknown.....	4	2	2

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES REPORTED DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	26	29	—
Diphtheria .....	32	32	2
Enteric Fever.....	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	—	—	—
Pneumonia .....	5	—	8
Erysipelas.....	7	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever.....	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis .....	—	—	—

ANALYSIS OF CASES OF SCARLET FEVER AND  
DIPHTHERIA.

Ages ...	0—	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	2	2	13	3	5	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	2	4	8	9	3	4	1	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 — 1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 .....	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
5 — 10 .....	—	—	3	2	—	—	1	—
10 — 15 .....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 .....	—	2	1	—	—	2	—	1
20 — 25 .....	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—
25 — 35 .....	1	1	—	1	1	1	1	1
35 — 45 .....	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—
45 — 55 .....	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
55 — 65 .....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and Upwards ....	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS .....	4	6	5	6	5	4	6	2



## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

## INFECTIONS.

Isolation Hospital accommodation for Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria is provided at the Gilesgate Fever Hospital, situated within the Borough.

## SMALLPOX.

Provision for the isolation and treatment of cases of Smallpox is made at Shincliffe Smallpox Hospital, with accommodation for twenty-eight beds and two cots, situated within the Durham Rural District, your Council being one of the constituent authorities of the Hospital Joint Committee.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Provision for the accommodation and treatment of pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases is made by the County Council of Durham under their County Tuberculosis Scheme.

## MATERNITY.

Durham Borough is included in the area for which the County Council of Durham is the responsible Maternity and Child Welfare Authority and this authority maintains accommodation for maternity cases at various centres while arrangements can also be made for the treatment of patients in the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Patients desiring treatment are asked to contribute towards the costs of maintenance in these institutions according to their income. Arrangements are also made by the County Council for the convalescent treatment of mothers and young children at their E. F. Peile County Convalescent Home at Shotley Bridge.

## GENERAL CASES.

The Durham County Hospital situated within the Borough, and the Sherburn Hospital, situated in the Durham Rural District about two miles from the City, are available for general medical and surgical cases.



## UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ETC.

Arrangements for the accommodation and treatment of unmarried mothers and their infants and for homeless children are made by the Board of Guardians at their Poor Law Institution, situated within the Borough.

## AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Ambulance facilities are provided by the Council for the purpose of the removal of sick and disabled citizens requiring transfer to and from Hospital, a scale of charges is in operation. For infectious cases, use is at present made of the motor ambulances of the Joint Hospital Board. Durham County Council provide an ambulance for the removal of Tuberculous patients to sanatorium and one for removal of non-infectious and accident cases.

## CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

(1) A schools clinic is provided and staffed by the Council at 80, Claypath, to deal with dental ophthalmic and minor ailments. The clinic is open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The County Council of Durham provides and staffs:—

(2) A maternity and child welfare centre within the Borough. This centre is open for children 0—1 on Wednesdays and for ante-natal work and children 1—5 on Fridays. A dental clinic is also held on each alternate Friday.

(3) A tuberculosis dispensary at Sherburn Hospital, near Durham, which is open on Tuesdays for women and children and on Fridays for men.

(4) A venereal diseases clinic at the County Hospital within the Borough, which is open on Mondays and Thursdays for treatment, while accommodation is provided for male and female irrigations daily.

## NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home nursing in respect of general cases is carried out by the Samaritan Nursing Association. This Association is affiliated to the Durham County Nursing Association from which Authority,

through the Durnam County Council, it receives a grant for the nursing of special diseases, measles, whooping cough, diarrhœa, etc.

#### MIDWIVES.

Five trained certified midwives notified their intention to practice in the Borough during the year. The County Council of Durham is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives' Acts and administers the Rules of the Central Midwives' Board.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF AREA.

*Water.*—The supply which is obtained from the mains of the Durham County Water Board has been plentiful and wholesome throughout the year. No complaints have been received by me as to its purity or quality.

#### HOUSE DRAINAGE DURING THE YEAR.

Drains were examined, tested and found satisfactory on the following premises by the Sanitary Inspector:—

Fern Hill Cottage, Lilac Cottage and Audley House, Neville's Cross, Durham ; County Hospital ; 31, Lawson Terrace ; 11, Elvet Bridge ; Gas Co. Cottages ; Merry Oaks Estate ; Messrs. Doggarts, Market Place ; Back Western Hill ; Catholic Mission Hall, Mill Lane ; Bungalow, Neville's Cross Bank ; 199, Gilesgate ; 10, Crossgate ; 59, Western Hill ; 8-10, Providence Row ; Angel Inn, Claypath ; Lukes Bakery, Bridge Street ; Workmen's Club, Crossgate ; Long Acres ; Crossgate Moor Gardens ; Three Tuns Hotel ; 32, Gilesgate ; Field House Lane ; Farewell Hall Estate ; Percy Avenue, Neville's Cross ; 51 and 51½ Hallgarth Street ; Bede College ; Whitesmocks ; Sherburn Road ; Long Garth Whitesmocks ; 33, Gilesgate ; Malvern Terrace ; "Cragside," Hawthorn Terrace ; "York Cottage," Gilesgate ; 23 and 24, Sherburn Road ; 4, Providence Row ; 44, Claypath ; The Oval, North End ; St. Hild's Gymnasium ; Bungalow, Sunderland Road ; Mr. H. Mole, Crossgate Moor ; St. Bede's Cemetery Cottage.

a total of 1,831 yards of new drains and 93 inspection chambers.

Drains were also tested by means of smoke at:—

No. 5, Co-operative Terrace.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

With the completion of the Pot and Glass Sewerage Disposal Works, the sewage for the whole of the City, with the exception of the South Road can be dealt with.

## BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.

The new Baths and Washhouses maintain their popularity, the water in the ponds being kept to a very high standard by means of a continuous system of filtration, aeration and sterilization.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

A weekly collection of house refuse is made by Motor transport to the Shincliffe tip. A bi-weekly collection is in operation from Hotels and Restaurants. The refuse is disposed of by an approved method of controlled tipping.

## STREET CLEANSING.

An efficient service is carried out but much litter is often strewn about the streets by visitors and others when removing Shop refuse.

The following is a summary of conversions effected during the year :—

ADDRESS.	No. of Ash closets Abol'd.	No. of Privies Abol'd.	No. of W.C.'s Substi- tuted.	No. of Ash boxes or Ash pits Abol'd.	No. of Dust Bins Substi- tuted.	Date 1939.
Milbank Cottages ...	—	2	2	1	3	March.
Audley House, Neville's Cross ... ..	1	—	1	1	1	Feb.
Lilac Cottage, Neville's Cross ... ..	1	—	1	1	1	„
Fern Hill Cottage, Nevilles Cross ... ..	1	—	1	1	1	„
49, Hallgarth Street ...	—	1	1	1	1	„
1-10 and 12-14, Malvern Terrace ... ..	—	13	13	4	13	August.
4, Providence Row ...	—	1	1	1	2	Sept.
Laverick Hall ... ..	—	1	1	1	1	Dec.
	3	18	21	11	23	

## ADDITIONAL WATER CLOSETS ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

New Houses	...	...	64
New buildings and alterations			15
Conversions	...	...	21
			100

71 Water Closets were abolished during the year in slum clearance operations.

### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The water carriage system predominates throughout the Borough, being in operation in 98.2 per cent of the conveniences. During the year 18 ashpit privies and 3 ash closets were converted into water closets. The work of conversion of all conveniences not of the water closet type in the City Area proper is nearing completion.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT.

There have been no complaints arising from excessive smoke issue from factory chimneys. Nineteen written notices affecting dwelling-houses and requiring the abatement of nuisances arising from defective domestic chimneys were served.

### SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditons, cleanliness and water supply are satisfactory, no school being closed during the year on account of infectious disease.

### SHOPS.

Sixty-four inspections of shops were made for the purposes of ascertaining if the provisions of the Shops' Acts were being



complied with. Warnings were given with regard to infringements of hours of employment of young persons and the failure to display the appropriate notices specified in the 1934 Act in two instances. Improvements in sanitation were carried out at 7 shops. Observations were made of shops on 24 evenings.

#### COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

One house with accommodation for 70 persons at 36, Framwellgate, is used for this purpose. The premises have been subject to regular visits and a good standard is maintained. The house will be demolished under clearance operations.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901, AND THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937 (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938) ...

PREMISES.	Number of		
	Inspec- tions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prose- cuted.
FACTORIES with mechanical power ... ..	54	15	—
FACTORIES without mechanical power ... ..	43	12	—
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construc- tion but not including out- workers' premises ...	5	—	—
Total ... ..	102	27	—



2. DEFECTS FOUND.

PARTICULARS.				Number of Defects.	
				Found.	Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	...	...	...	8	8
Sanitary Conveniences	{	insufficient	...	10	10
		unsuitable or defec-	...		
		tive	...	5	5
Other offences	{	not separate for	...		
		sexes	...	—	—
Other offences	...	...	...	4	4
Total	...	...	...	27	27

The following defects were found and duly remedied:—

To limewash dirty walls and ceilings	...	...	8
Absence of sufficient lighting of conveniences			5
Defective water closet apparatus and fittings	...		10
Structural defects	...	...	4
			—
		Total	27
			—

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S  
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1939.

I.—PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.
Dwelling-houses and Schools—			
Foul Conditions ... ..	5	—	5
Structural Defects ... ..	618	—	618
Overcrowding ... ..	—	—	—
Lodging-houses ... ..	2	—	2
Dairies and Milkshops ... ..	—	—	—
Cowsheds ... ..	16	—	16
Bakehouses ... ..	2	—	2
Slaughter-houses ... ..	10	—	10
Ashpits and Privies ... ..	18	—	18
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	24	—	24
Waterclosets ... ..	91	—	91
Defective Yard Paving ... ..	19	—	19
House Drainage—			
Defective Traps ... ..	—	—	—
No Disconnection from Sewers	—	—	—
Other Faults ... ..	63	—	63
Water Supply ... ..	4	—	4
Pigsties ... ..	—	—	—
Animals Improperly Kept ...	—	—	—
Offensive Trades ... ..	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances ... ..	19	—	19
Other Nuisances ... ..	—	—	—
Rat Infestation ... ..	5	—	5
Lack of Sanitary Dust Bins ...	44	—	44
Notice under Sec. 75. P.H.A., 1925	—	—	—
Contamination of Food ... ..	—	—	—
Insufficient Closet Accommodation	4	—	4
Breach of Bye-Laws (Sub-letting)	1	—	1
Notice to Limewash Workshops ...	1	—	1
Notice to Limewash Factories ...	9	—	9
TOTALS ... ..	955	—	955

II.—WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	... ..	nil
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use	... ..	nil
Seizures of Unwholesome Food (as follows)	... ..	43
2 Bovine Heads and Tongues affected with Tuberculosis.		
7 Bovine Sets of Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.		
27 Bovine LIVERS affected with Distomatosis.		
1 Bovine Liver affected with Cirrhosis.		
1 Bovine Liver affected with Tuberculosis.		
2 hundredweights of Scotch Pigs Heads undergoing putrefaction.		
Fourteen pounds of Smoked Haddocks undergoing putrefaction.		
The Stomachs, Liver and Lungs of a Bovine in an Inflammatory condition.		
The entire Carcase including Head and Tongue and all Viscera of a Heifer affected with Tuberculosis.		
2½ dozen Bloaters undergoing putrefaction.		

Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	nil
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	nil
Samples of Food found Adulterated	...	...	nil

### III.—PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	...	95
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	58
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	...	nil
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons or things	...	...	nil
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things	...	...	nil

### IV.—GENERAL.

Number of New Houses erected during year	...	...	64
Number of such Houses occupied during year	...	...	64
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	...	...	nil
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets	...	...	18
Ash-closets converted into Water-closets	...	...	3
Total number of Water-closets in District	...	...	5479
(71 abolished under slum clearance operations).			
Total number of Ash-closets in District	...	...	60
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District	...	...	26
(4 abolished under slum clearance operations.)			

G. W. RAGG,  
Sanitary Inspector.

### SLUM CLEARANCE.

At the beginning of the year after the rehousing of the tenants from New Elvet Clearance Areas on the Sherburn Road Estate there remained a surplus of 35 houses which were used for the purpose of rehousing some of the worst overcrowded families in the Claypath and Gilesgate Areas. This was done under a written guarantee from the Owners that the dwellings would not be re-let for the purpose of human habitation, the period from the date when the orders became operative not having expired.

The Council had schemes ready and were proceeding with the erection of 62 flats in Framwelgate to provide accommodation for single persons and old married couples who would be displaced from clearance areas. In addition, tenders were obtained for the erection of houses on cleared sites in New Elvet and Framwelgate

so as to enable the Council to fulfil the obligation to provide accommodation for displaced tenants in the other Clearance Areas. When houses on the Sherburn Estate have become unoccupied they have been re-occupied by tenants from slum clearance areas or where demolition or closing orders have been made.

In this way no fewer than 26 houses have been re-occupied, this being a gain in the number of houses required for re-housing families from scheduled clearance areas.

Unfortunately after the outbreak of war all slum clearance operations were in suspense.

After the overcrowding survey under the Housing Act, 1936, it was found that there was need for the erection of 114 houses apart from the number required for clearance purposes. The Council at that time decided to proceed with the erection of the following types of houses to meet the need in this direction—46 two bedroom, 9 three, 45 four, 13 five and 1 six bedroom houses.

Up to the present no progress has been made, simply for the reason of the difficulty in obtaining land for the purpose.

The total number of additional houses prior to the close of last year, in connection with various housing schemes, exclusive of 823 erected in connection with clearance schemes, is 183, this being a total of 1,006.

The number erected during 1938 under clearance schemes was 333.

The number erected by private enterprise since 1919 with the aid of subsidies under the Act is 25.

The number erected without the aid of a subsidy is 468.

The total number of additional houses since 1919, inclusive of 823 erected in connection with clearance schemes, is 1,499.

Attention should be paid to the need for the erection of single-bedroom bungalows or flats for single persons and couples. It has been estimated that 247 houses of this description are required for this purpose, also 77 houses of two bedroom type, 11 three bedroom 57 four bedroom, 13 five bedroom and 1 of six bedrooms, this



being a total of 406 houses yet to be built to complete our housing requirements.

OVERCROWDING ABATED 1939.			<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
Private Ownership	...	...	4	20
Closing Orders	...	...	12	68
Demolition Orders	...	...	10	52
Confirmed Clearance Orders	...	...	41	237
			—	—
			67	377
			—	—

Since the year 1934, overcrowding has been relieved to the extent of 513 dwellings occupied by 2,754 persons.

#### VERMINOUS PREMISES.

This problem still persists. It appears that more time than ever is being spent on disinfestation, especially during warm weather, but it can hardly be that there are more vermin to-day with all our improved standards of living. The reason, no doubt, is that the standard itself is responsible for the greater number of complaints. Tenants complain when living in Council Houses, but would not have thought of doing so ten years ago when housed in a slum. Then they had no sanitary optimism ; to-day they have a brighter outlook and are not satisfied until things are righted.

The treatment of verminous houses is one of the biggest problems we are up against. Hydrocyanic acid gas for verminous dwellings and furniture is undoubtedly the most effective method we know of, but I am afraid the danger to human life is so great that it will not become generally used for many years, if ever. That it is used safely by skilled operators I do not deny, but one mistake is fatal and there's the rub. Spraying with an approved insecticide, followed by a powerful concentration of sulphur dioxide gas, is safer, although it has been found necessary in some cases for a second and even a third operation. There are also several proprietary materials in use at the present time which are even more effective than sulphur and these are used in exceptional circumstances.



## CLAYPATH AND GILESGATE, ETC., CLEARANCE ORDERS, HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Confirmation of the Clearance Orders relating to the above, made by the Council on the 6th of July, 1938, was received on the 22nd March, 1939 (Gilesgate No. 9, April 4th, 1939), with the following modifications:—

### *Claypath No. 3, Clearance Area, 1938.*

Reference No. 1 unoccupied houses, subject to a demolition order at 12, Claypath, is excluded from the order and the Clearance Area, leaving it to the Council to continue action under Part II of the Housing Act, 1936.

### *Claypath No. 5, Clearance Area, 1938.*

Reference Nos. 2, 4, 8 and 10 being 78 and 79, Claypath, is excluded from the order and from the Clearance Area on the undertaking offered by the owners not to use the premises for the purpose of human habitation.

### *Gilesgate No. 11, Clearance Order, 1939.*

Reference Nos. 12 to 17, being 6, 7 and 8, Sherburn Road, is excluded from the order and from the Clearance Area on the undertaking given by the owner to carry out to the satisfaction of the Council such works as are necessary to render the properties fit for human habitation, leaving to the Council if the works are not carried out within a reasonable period, to take further action under Part II or III of the Act.

## DISPLACEMENT OF TENANTS.

Progress has been made in the removal of tenants from clearance areas during the year or after treatment of certain properties by the methods detailed in the Housing Acts.

95 tenants, comprising 455 persons, were displaced as follows:—

	<i>Dwellings.</i>	<i>Persons.</i>
Claypath, Gilesgate, Framwelgate, Sidegate and Walkergate ... ..	58	291
Individual Unfit Houses ... ..	16	71
Closing Orders ... ..	15	77
Abatement of Overcrowding (Private Ownership) ... ..	4	20
	—	—
	93	459
	—	—

At the end of the year 775 tenants, comprising 3,499 persons, had been displaced and re-housed during slum clearance operations. The usual methods are employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin.

#### INSPECTION OF HOUSES.

In the inspection of houses careful attention is paid to want of repairs. Particulars are given elsewhere in the report of action taken under the Public Health Acts and results achieved under the heading of “ Summary of Work Done.”

#### HOUSING STATISTICS.

##### (1) INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

<i>a.</i> Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	127
<i>b.</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	254

(2) <i>a.</i> Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 ...	26
<i>b.</i> Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	52

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	9
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(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ... ..	118
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REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ..	118
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A.—*Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	26
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	24
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

B.—*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	127
(2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners ... ..	127
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil

C.—*Proceedings under Section 11 to 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	25
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	13

D.—*Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	12
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	nil

## (4) HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

A. (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year	133
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	133
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	485
B. (1) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	nil
C. (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	67
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	377

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

## MILK SUPPLY.

There were 14 Cowkeepers, 21 Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk, 29 shops supplying milk in bottles and 29 Registered Purveyors with premises outside the area. The total number of persons registered at the end of the year was 79.

The above premises were regularly inspected during the year and were found to be conducted in a clean and satisfactory manner.

Supplementary Licences to supply the following Designated Milks were granted by the Council during the year:—

Tuberculin Tested	4
Accredited	6
Pasteurised	7



The arrangements and processes under and by which the milk is produced, stored, treated and distributed, as the case may be, shall be such as to satisfy the licensing authority that the requirements of all Acts and Orders relating to Milk and Dairies and the conditions of the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936, subject to which the licence is granted are being complied with.

The farm premises are inspected twice yearly and notices are served in May and October of each year to carry out the periodic limewashing of the ceilings or interior of roofs and walls of every cowshed in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order 1926.

The conditions required for the production of clean milk at the farms in the area were satisfactory.

Four notices were served during the year requiring structural repairs to farm buildings.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

In accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, the following animals were inspected after slaughter during the year:—

Bovines	...	...	556
Sheep	...	...	1832
Pigs	...	...	386

The carcasses of all animals except one were passed as being fit for human consumption. It was found necessary to condemn and destroy, in accordance with Memo. 62 "Foods," the entire carcase and all organs and viscera of a Heifer which upon examination was found to be affected with Generalised Tuberculosis. The carcase including the head and tongue and all viscera, were properly disposed of by burning at the Corporation Incinerator. The following were also condemned, surrendered and destroyed:—

- 2 Bovine Heads and Tongues affected with Tuberculosis.
- 7 Bovine sets of Lungs affected with Tuberculosis.
- 27 Bovine Livers affected with Distomatosis.
- 1 Bovine Liver affected with Cirrhosis.
- 1 Bovine Liver affected with Tuberculosis.



2 hundredweight of Scotch Pigs Heads undergoing putrefaction.

14 pounds of Smoked Haddocks undergoing putrefaction.

The Stomachs, Liver and Lungs of a Bovine in an inflammatory condition.

#### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There have been no addition to the number of slaughterhouses in the district. Three of the slaughterhouses out of nine are in a dilapidated and ruinous condition, being in clearance areas, and could be demolished by taking action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Thirty-six notices were served to comply with the quarterly limewashing of the interior walls in accordance with bye-laws.

The whole of these premises were maintained in a clean condition and offals disposed of in properly covered receptacles. No complaint of nuisance arising therefrom was received.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928-1938.

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##### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

##### YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1939.

The work under this Act is performed by an Inspector of the County Council of Durham and during the past year the following samples were submitted by him to the Public Analyst for examination, viz.:—

Aspirin	...	...	1	Chemical Food	...	1
Barley	...	...	1	Cascara Sagrada Tablets		1
Butter	...	...	4	Cocoa	...	1
Camphorated Oil	...	...	1	Cod Liver Oil	...	1
Castor Oil	...	...	1	Cooking Fat	...	1
Calcium Lactate Tablets			1	Coffee	...	1

Gregory's Powder	...	2	Liquid Iodine	...	1
Glauber Salts	...	1	Medicinal Paraffin	...	2
Ground Nutmegs	...	1	New Milk	...	29
Honey, Glycerine and Lemon	2		Pasteurised Milk	...	4
Lard	...	2	Sausage	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	4	Strawberry Jam	...	2
Cream	...	1	White Pepper	...	2
Compound Bismuth					—
Lozenges	...	1	Total number of samples		
Compound Powder of			taken	...	71
Liquorice	...	1			—

Of the 71 samples taken only two samples of New Milk were reported to be very slightly below standard and the deficiencies did not warrant the institution of legal proceedings.



